



FALL 2009 NEWSLETTER

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

A comprehensive plan is a “*blueprint*” for the growth and development of a community. It guides the manner in which the community accommodates development or redevelopment, and will address such issues as land use, transportation, economic development, housing, and open space preservation. The plan is developed with the guidance of a professional planning team, but created, owned and championed by the community members.

Visioning Workshops

In conjunction with consultants WRT and the Center for Planning Excellence, the parish held a series of twelve interactive workshops throughout the parish from August through October. Nearly 500 participants, including about 150 high school students, shared their views on current strengths and weaknesses of our community, and identified opportunities and threats for the future. Workshops were held in Killona, Destrehan, St. Rose, Boutte, Luling, Norco, Des Allemands, Ama, Bayou Gauche, and Hahnville. The results of the citizen input were tallied and used to craft the vision statement which depicts the citizens’ long-term vision of the parish.



Major Themes from Visioning Statement

The following “major themes” came out of the Visioning Workshops’ public involvement. These five major themes shaped the Vision Statement, which established what the community collectively wants the parish to look like in 2030. The Steering Committee has adopted a Vision Statement which was approved by the Council in November.

- Building on a Solid Foundation: Basic Infrastructure and Safety
- Economic Strengthening and Diversification
- Framework for Sustainable Growth
- Full Array of Public Services and Growth
- Enhancing Community Character, Shared Identity and Connectedness



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Steering Committee Co-Chair Announced

Mike Carlson and Mary Clulee volunteered to be the Steering Committee Co-Chairs. The Steering Committee is a 32-member group that is representative of the community makeup. This committee meets once each month to act as a sounding board for the consultant team. They have worked with the consultants to formulate the vision statement. This vision statement will guide the rest of the Comprehensive Plan.



"I thought it was a great idea to involve our future young adults in this process. These students will play major roles in our parish in the next 5-10 yrs especially due to the baby boomers inching closer to retirement - they will fill jobs, participate in our tax base, and hopefully start a family. The students...were very eager to express their opinions on what they thought should change in the parish and also what aspects of the parish they enjoy & hope to see continued."

- Joshua Johnson
Steering Committee Member

"I enjoyed facilitating at several different workshops, because it helped me better understand what people in different parts of the parish want. I was surprised by how different the suggestions were, but there were however a few common themes...As a member of the Steering Committee, if we work to develop a plan that does not address what the people in the parish want it will be useless."

- Mike Carlson
Steering Committee Member

To view the complete Vision Statement and additional information visit
www.stcharles2030.blogspot.com.



Upcoming Dates to put on your Calendar: Next Public Meetings will be held in Early 2010!